Massachusetts Department of Public Health

November 28, 2016

Bi-Weekly Zika Virus Update



Zika Virus Bi-Weekly Update Massachusetts Department of Public Health

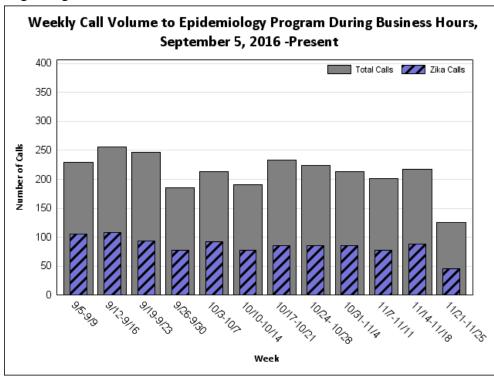
November 28, 2016 Report Number: 039

Significant Updates:

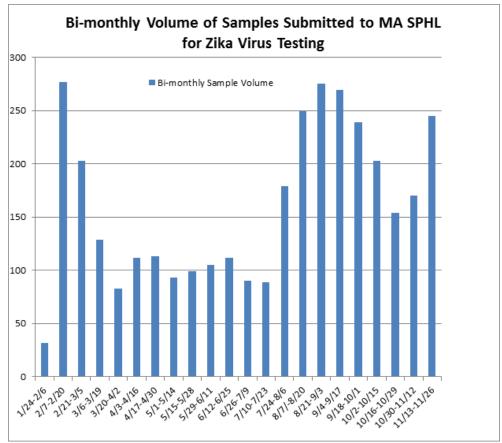
- The first case of locally acquired Zika virus infection in the United States, outside of Florida, has been reported from Brownsville, Texas. Enhanced vector surveillance and control, and case finding are being conducted to determine if active transmission is occurring.
- The biweekly release of these Zika virus reports is being suspended at this time. For the time being, reports will be issued on an as-needed basis, such as when guidance changes or critical new information about the public health situation or clinical risks associated with Zika virus infection is reported.

MDPH Activities Summary:

- All questions related to Zika virus testing requests should be directed to the 24/7 Epidemiology line, 617-983-6800.
- The MDPH Zika Virus web page has been redesigned and the Information for the Public section has been reproduced on separate pages in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian-Creole and French. This redesign was done to improve accessibility to the most important information about Zika for individuals most likely to be traveling to areas with active transmission and to align the graphics with those on the new Zika educational materials. These materials will be available early next week; an announcement with web links to the online versions and information on how to order hard copies is scheduled.
- MDPH is working with a vendor to develop new outreach materials aimed particularly at populations that travel frequently between Massachusetts and places where active Zika transmission is occurring. Initial materials should be ready shortly as many people start to make their holiday travel plans.
- MDPH Epidemiology Staff continue to receive calls from clinicians, local health, and concerned residents regarding Zika virus and its public health implications in Massachusetts. The weekly call volume for the last 3 months regarding Zika is shown below.



- The MA State Public Health Laboratory (MA SPHL) uses a PCR test to detect the genetic material of Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses and the Zika IgM MAC-ELISA to test for antibody response to infection. PRNT (confirmatory) testing is available on specimens that are IgM positive.
- Staff members of the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition Birth Defects Surveillance, and the Boston Public Health Commission, are collecting data on women and infants meeting criteria for enrollment in the U.S. Zika Pregnancy Registry.



• All specimens for testing pregnant women for Zika virus should be sent to the Massachusetts State

Public Health Laboratory. For individuals not meeting the criteria for testing at the MA SPHL, providers should ensure that they are requesting the appropriate test (PCR or IgM ELISA) depending upon the presence or absence of symptoms and timing of specimen draw relative to illness onset or last possible exposure. Because the duration of viremia is quite brief in most instances, testing using both test types may be indicated.

Laboratory Testing Summary:

• The MA SPHL tested 206 samples (117 serum, 89 urine, 0 CSF, 0 amniotic fluid) from 120 patients by PCR and 126 samples from 126 patients using the IgM ELISA test. Positive PCR tests are confirmatory while positive IgM tests require further confirmatory PRNT testing by the MA SPHL.

New or Revised State Guidance: None

National Activities

CDC Updates:

Case Counts in the US

Publications:

- Announcement: Guidance for U.S. Laboratory Testing for Zika Virus Infection: Implications for Health Care Providers
- Description of 13 Infants Born During October 2015–January 2016 With Congenital Zika Virus Infection Without Microcephaly at Birth Brazil
- Characterizing the Pattern of Anomalies in Congenital Zika Syndrome for Pediatric Clinicians

Guidance:

• Areas with Zika

Educational materials:

IS IT FLU OR ZIKA?

For further information regarding Zika go to:

http://www.mass.gov/zika

Please share with colleagues and throughout your agency, organization and/or associations. If you have comments, questions or feedback, contact us at the 24/7 Epi Line (617) 983-6800 or by email at DPH.EmergencyPreparedness@state.ma.us